



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

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August 2000

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 7,000 Over the Year

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 7,000 between July 1999 and July 2000. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2000 was 3.9 percent, reflecting a drop of 0.3 of a percentage point from the July 1999 level of 4.2 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents fell by 1,500 over the year.

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's unemployment rate held steady at 3.9 percent from June to July. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders dropped by 100 over the month. Nationally, the unemployment rate for July remained at June's level of 4.0 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment figure was below the comparable US average for the eleventh month in a row.

"The good news continues for the Rhode Island economy as the July unemployment rate remained at 3.9 percent," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "Typically, July is a month of seasonal variations. While many industries benefit from good weather and increased tourism, others experience temporary employment declines due to factory vacations and summer school closings." (Continued on Page 4)

1998 - 2008 Projections

Which occupations are growing? Which occupations are declining? What does the future have in store for specific industries? Find out by visiting the Labor Market Information (LMI) web site and viewing the newly released 1998 - 2008 Projections. First, go to the LMI web site at:

<http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi>

Then select 1998 - 2008 Projections and click on the appropriate title for further information.

Wage Results In

The results of the 1998 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey have been published. Employers and job seekers interested in knowing current wage statistics for an occupation, or employees interested in seeing how their wages compare with others in the same occupation, should be sure to visit our web site at:

<http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi>

Click on Wage Information, then select the desired format. The same information is available in hard copy format.

Rhode Island's Occupational Wage Report
2000 Edition
All Industries - Statewide



To obtain your free copy of the 2000 Edition of Rhode Island's Occupational Wage Report for All Industries Statewide call Labor Market Information at:

(401) 462-8750

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all employers who participated in the OES survey. Without your participation in this survey, this information would not be possible!

Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

(in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99
Civilian Labor Force	514.0	507.5	510.1	509.0	506.3	505.7
Resident Employment	494.9	489.3	489.6	489.1	486.3	484.2
Unemployment	19.0	18.2	20.4	19.9	20.0	21.4
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%	4.2%

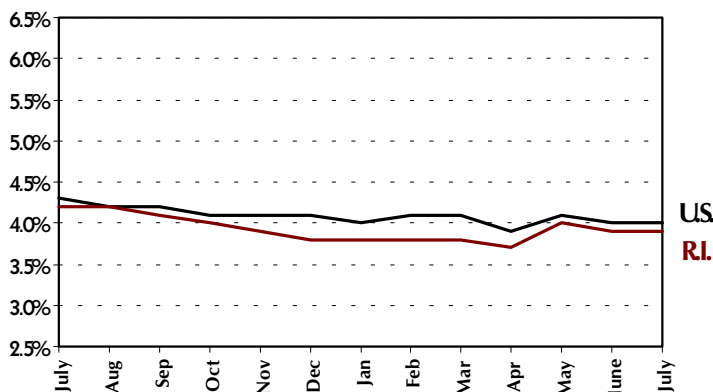
United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99
Civilian Labor Force	142,101	142,132	141,119	140,399	140,762	139,336
Resident Employment	136,097	136,192	134,800	134,749	135,179	133,399
Unemployment	6,004	5,940	6,319	5,650	5,583	5,937
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.2%	4.5%	4.0%	4.0%	4.3%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 1999-2000



City & Town

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jul 00	Jul 99
Barrington	2.3	2.1
Bristol	3.1	3.2
Burrillville	3.4	4.3
Central Falls	6.1	5.5
Charlestown	4.0	4.9
Coventry	4.3	4.7
Cranston	3.6	4.1
Cumberland	3.3	3.5
East Greenwich	2.8	3.4
East Providence	4.2	4.3
Exeter	3.2	3.3
Foster	4.6	4.5
Glocester	2.8	3.5
Hopkinton	2.2	2.8
Jamestown	2.5	2.3
Johnston	4.2	4.6
Lincoln	3.8	4.0
Little Compton	1.4	1.5
Middletown	2.7	3.0
Narragansett	1.6	1.7
New Shoreham	0.7	0.9
Newport	2.7	2.8
North Kingstown	2.6	2.9
North Providence	3.7	4.0
North Smithfield	3.0	3.8
Pawtucket	4.5	4.7
Portsmouth	2.5	2.5
Providence	5.0	5.4
Richmond	2.2	2.2
Scituate	3.7	4.2
Smithfield	4.0	4.2
South Kingstown	2.7	2.9
Tiverton	3.7	3.5
Warren	3.5	4.0
Warwick	3.3	3.7
West Greenwich	3.0	3.7
West Warwick	4.2	4.5
Westerly	2.1	2.5
Woonsocket	4.1	4.9
State of R.I.	3.7	4.0

Per Capita Personal Income (Dollars)*

1995 - 1999

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	% Change From 199-1998
United States	28,518	27,203	25,924	24,651	23,562	4.8%
New England	34,264	32,373	30,676	28,820	27,426	5.8%
Connecticut	39,167	37,338	35,636	33,472	31,947	4.9%
Maine	24,960	23,499	22,394	21,293	20,240	6.2%
Massachusetts	35,733	33,496	31,592	29,618	28,051	6.7%
New Hampshire	30,905	29,480	27,746	26,042	25,008	4.8%
Rhode Island	29,720	28,262	26,855	25,123	24,046	5.2%
Vermont	25,892	24,602	23,382	22,295	21,359	5.2%

*Per Capita income is personal income divided by the resident population as of July 1st. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

*Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi



Minimum Wage Hike for Rhode Island Workers

As of September 1st, the minimum wage went up to **\$6.15** per hour. Governor Almond recently signed a new minimum wage bill raising the rate .50 from the current rate of \$5.65. The new rate compares favorably with the other New England states, as well as the federal minimum wage which stands at \$5.15 per hour. The current rates for the New England states are as follows:

Connecticut*	\$6.15
Maine	\$5.15
Massachusetts*	\$6.00
New Hampshire	\$5.15
Rhode Island	\$6.15
Vermont*	\$5.75

* These states have further increases in their minimum wage scheduled for future months.

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99	Jun 00	Jul 99
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	468.6	475.6	461.6	-7000	7000
GOODS PRODUCING	90.1	92.8	89.0	-2700	1100
Contract Construction	20.5	19.6	19.3	900	1200
Manufacturing	69.6	73.2	69.7	-3600	-100
SERVICE PRODUCING	378.5	382.8	372.6	-4300	5900
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.1	16.7	16.0	-600	100
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	110.1	109.6	107.3	500	2800
Wholesale	20.5	20.4	20.0	100	500
Durable†	12.7	12.6	12.4	100	300
Nondurable†	7.8	7.8	7.6	-----	200
Retail	89.6	89.2	87.3	400	2300
Building & Garden Supplies†	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
General Merchandise	7.0	7.1	6.7	-100	300
Food Stores†	16.4	16.4	15.9	-----	500
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.7	7.4	-100	200
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.9	4.9	4.0	-----	900
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.†	2.5	2.4	2.3	100	200
Eating and Drinking Places	34.1	33.4	34.0	700	100
Miscellaneous Retail	14.9	15.0	14.7	-100	200
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30.2	30.0	29.9	200	300
Depository Institutions	8.9	8.8	8.7	100	200
Services	161.8	162.0	160.1	-200	1700
Hotels & Other Lodging†	5.2	4.8	5.1	400	100
Business Services	30.7	30.9	29.1	-200	1600
Auto & Misc. Repair†	5.1	5.2	5.1	-100	-----
Amusement & Recreation	6.6	6.5	6.4	100	200
Health Services	51.3	51.1	51.8	200	-500
Educational Services	13.8	13.9	13.7	-100	100
Social Services	15.3	15.4	15.3	-100	-----
Government	60.3	64.5	59.3	-4200	1000
Federal	11.0	11.0	10.5	-----	500
State	17.7	18.5	17.8	-800	-100
Local	31.6	35.0	31.0	-3400	600
Education†	17.2	21.7	17.2	-4500	-----
Non Education†	14.4	13.4	13.8	1000	600

† Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	Net Change					Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99	Jun 00	Jul 99	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99
MANUFACTURING	69.6	73.2	69.7	-3600	-100	39.7	40.7	39.8	12.21	12.21	11.97
DURABLE MFG.	45.3	47.4	45.3	-2100	-----	39.5	40.4	40.0	11.99	12.01	11.76
Lumber/Furniture	2.5	2.6	2.9	-100	-400	40.5	42.2	40.7	12.09	12.08	12.00
Stone-Clay-Glass	1.1	1.1	1.0	-----	100	41.0	42.1	42.4	13.84	13.85	13.59
Primary Metals	3.7	3.9	3.8	-200	-100	40.1	42.7	42.1	12.70	12.71	12.58
Fabricated Metals	7.0	8.2	7.0	-1200	-----	38.3	38.8	37.7	11.19	11.32	10.88
Nonelectrical Mach.	5.0	5.1	4.4	-100	600	37.8	39.2	38.7	13.50	13.53	13.27
Electrical Mach.	5.4	5.2	5.1	200	300	41.1	41.5	41.6	11.28	11.45	11.22
Trans. Equipment	3.6	3.6	3.3	-----	300	41.0	41.6	40.5	14.34	14.40	14.21
Instruments	5.3	5.3	5.0	-----	300	40.4	41.5	41.0	12.64	12.73	12.64
Jewelry-Silverware	8.6	9.4	9.7	-800	-1100	38.8	39.4	39.0	10.42	10.46	10.23
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.1	3.0	3.1	100	-----	40.0	39.4	40.8	11.63	11.45	11.31
NONDURABLE MFG.	24.3	25.8	24.4	-1500	-100	40.0	41.3	39.5	12.61	12.56	12.38
Food Beverage	2.9	2.9	2.7	-----	200	42.2	42.2	41.6	11.53	11.51	11.32
Textiles	6.0	6.8	6.4	-800	-400	38.4	40.9	40.0	10.77	10.77	10.72
Apparel	0.8	0.9	0.9	-100	-100	39.5	41.7	35.0	9.16	9.24	8.91
Paper Products	2.0	2.1	1.7	-100	300	38.4	40.9	38.6	11.90	12.07	11.87
Printing-Publishing	5.2	5.4	5.4	-200	-200	39.2	40.1	38.0	16.56	16.56	16.38
Chemical Products	2.1	2.1	1.9	-----	200	40.9	41.3	40.4	13.80	13.80	13.46
Rubber Products	0.5	0.6	0.4	-100	100	42.7	41.8	42.5	12.98	12.93	12.94
Plastics Products	4.4	4.5	4.5	-100	-100	42.2	43.0	39.6	13.42	13.41	12.97
Leather Products	0.4	0.5	0.5	-100	-100	42.5	40.3	41.1	8.31	8.31	8.01

** Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 7,000 Over the Year

(Continued from Page 1)

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island (Over the Year)

Since July 1999, Rhode Island employment grew by 7,000 jobs (1.5 percent). Nearly all major industry divisions experienced over-the-year gains with the largest occurring in Trade (+2,800) and Services (+1,700). Within the Trade sector, Apparel and Accessory Stores reported the largest job increase (+900) mainly due to the opening of the Providence Place Mall. Most of the growth in Services was due to a gain of 1,600 jobs in Business Services. Government employment grew by 1,000 over the year due to increases in the Federal (+500) and Local (+600) segments. Contract Construction, fueled by growth in Special Trade Contractors and General Building Construction, boosted its payrolls by 1,200 jobs. Annual job gains were also recorded in Finance/Insurance/Real Estate (+300) and Transportation/Public Utilities (+100). Manufacturing experienced an annual loss of 100 jobs.

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island declined by 7,000 from June to July due mainly to the temporary factory shutdowns and school closings that normally occur this time of year.

Contract Construction - The construction industry continued to break records, posting its highest July employment level (20,500) since 1989. Monthly gains were higher than normal for this industry which added 900 jobs over the month, the largest increase among the major industry divisions.

Trade - Trade reported a net gain of 500 jobs over the month due mainly to seasonal gains in Restaurants which overshadowed some minor losses reported in General Merchandise Stores, Automotive Dealers and Miscellaneous Retail Stores.

Services - Employment in Services reached an all-time July high of 161,800. Seasonal hiring in Hotels/Lodging and Amusement/Recreation, along with employment gains in Health Services partially offset minor job losses reported in other sectors.

Transportation/Public Utilities - Employment in Transportation/Public Utilities declined seasonally (-600) over the month due to a drop in local transportation.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jul 00	Jun 00	Jul 99	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	172.6	172.3	166.7	3.5%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Manufacturing - The Manufacturing sector registered a net decline of 3,600 jobs, mostly the result of temporary factory closings. The largest reductions occurred in Fabricated Metals (-1,200), Jewelry-Silverware (-800) and Textiles (-800). Because most of the factory losses are due to vacation shutdowns, the workers will be back on the payrolls in August.

Government - Government payrolls were down 4,200 jobs, mostly due to decreased staffing in public schools during the summer break. Employment is expected to rebound in September when the school workers return to their jobs.

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Statistical and
Labor Market Information
Fiscal Digest 1999

The Department of Labor & Training administers a variety of programs designed to protect and advance the Rhode Island Workforce. The Statistical & Fiscal Digest contains financial summaries and statistical activity reports for nearly all DLT programs.

The 1999 edition of the Statistical and Fiscal Digest is now available in hard copy from LMI. The Digest is a reference tool used by employers, planners and anyone interested in a variety of useful financial & statistical information on Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Disability Insurance, Workers' Compensation, Employment and Training Services, and Labor Market Information.

The Digest is available on the LMI website at:

www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/S&FDigest99/S&F.htm

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Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jul 2000	Jun 2000	Jul 1999	% Change		Year to Date		
				Jun 00	Jul 99	2000	1999	% Change
Initial Claims	7,168	8,080	8,751	-11.3%	-18.1%	52,515	60,176	-12.7%
Number of Payments	49,939	36,826	47,382	35.6%	5.4%	357,791	380,422	-5.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$11.3	\$8.9	\$10.4	27.3%	8.2%	\$87.3	\$88.3	-1.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,243	981	1,009	26.7%	23.2%	7,849	8,504	-7.7%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	n/a	\$280.2	\$237.5	n/a	n/a			